

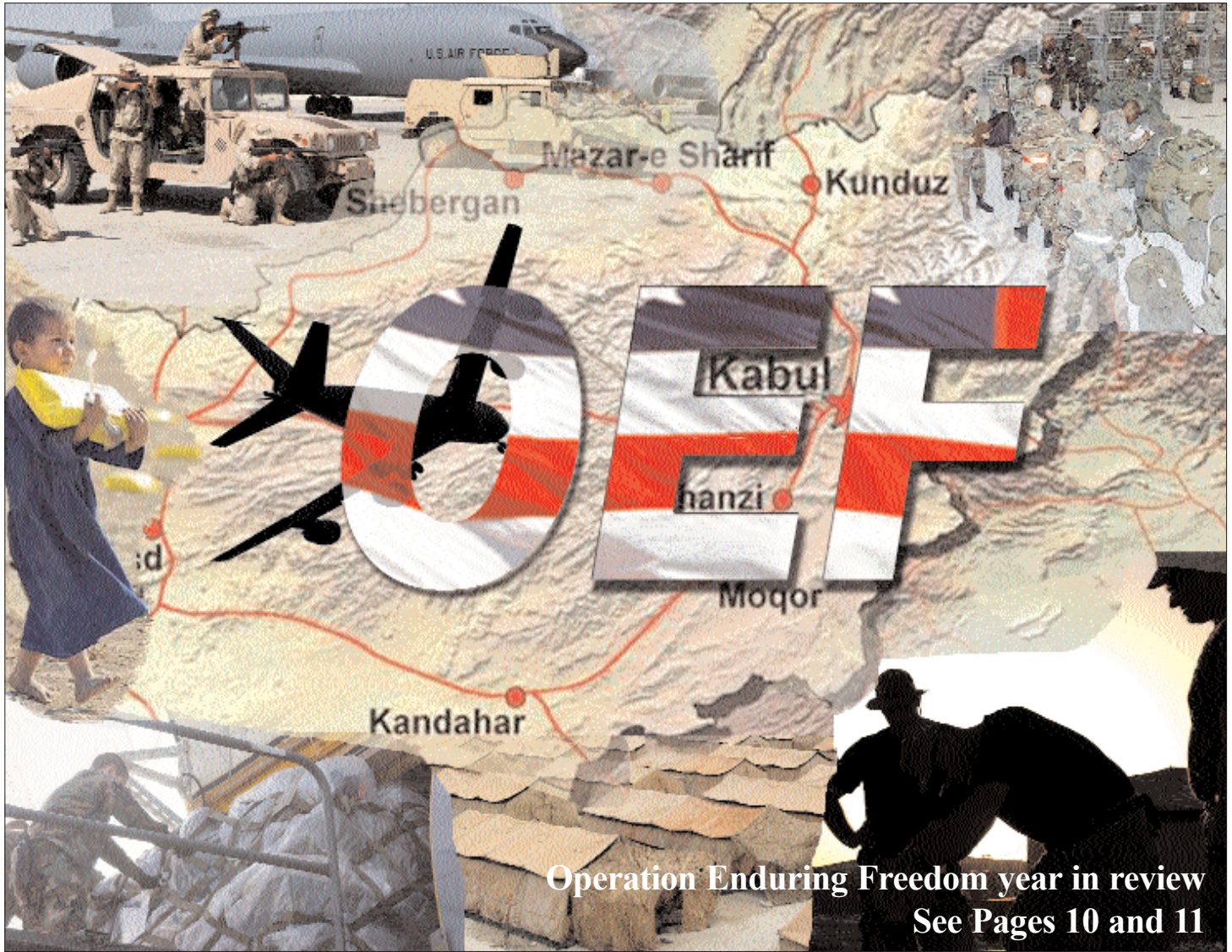


# THE LEADER

Vol. 37, No. 39

Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ [www.grandforks.af.mil](http://www.grandforks.af.mil)

Oct. 4, 2002



319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Solano Trophy Winner ♦ Best Base in 15th Air Force

## Inside:

### Weekend weather

Today 48/32 mostly cloudy  
Saturday 46/31 mostly cloudy  
Sunday 45/30 mixed precip  
Monday 57/33 rain



Weather information courtesy  
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

### Air Force Ball

Page 3



### Fill 'er up

Page 4



### Crafty patriots

Page 12



### One unit's look back at Operation Enduring Freedom

# 912th Air Refueling Squadron 'Vipers' tell war stories

## November 2001

► **Capt. Pantleo, 1st Lt. Peter Birchenough and Staff Sgt. David Tickle** – While approaching the control point in a track in the vicinity of Khost, the pilot saw two trucks pull off the road just beneath the control point. The crew called in the sighting to the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control aircraft. Some F-18s were dispatched and three laser-guided bombs were dropped on the vehicles towing ammunition and rocket launchers. The targets burned for the entire four hours the crew was on station. Later, two other airstrikes were called in by the crew and the targets were handled separately. This was the same day and area that Mohammed Ateff was killed. *(Source: crew recollection of events)*

## Operation Anaconda (spring 2002)

► **Capt. John Pantleo, 1st Lt. Federico Mendoza and Airman 1st Class Doug Smith** – They orbited 10 to 15 miles from where the helicopters went down on Whaleback. The Taliban were 200 meters from the friendly troops and the crew worked with the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft to develop a track to get closer to the fight. Two of the ground troops were critically injured as the KC-135 arrived overhead, but no one else was hurt while this crew was supporting operations. They supported F-16s, B-1s and B-52s for the close air support, which suppressed Taliban forces, paving the way for rescue efforts. They also brought back two F-16s with expended guns and missiles. *(Source: crew recollection of events)*

► **Capt. Tom Joslyn** – One night we dragged F-16s into Afghanistan at night and followed them on their forward air control frequency. The F-16Cs lost communication with their forward air controller and we were able to relay information to the aircraft for the green beret on the ground. The F-16s were able to strike a cave where Bin Laden was suspected to be and they saw secondary explosions. The second (most) exciting flight, we refueled F-18s over a convoy target. We fol-

lowed frequencies again and listened to the unmanned aerial vehicle, or UAV, run the show. They provided targeting information to an AC-130 and our F-18s. We got to watch the explosions as F-18s dropped bombs, one each, and then we saw muzzle flashes from the AC-130 as they pounded the remaining vehicles. All the while the UAV provided real time battle damage assessment and redirected fire. It was amazing to witness.”

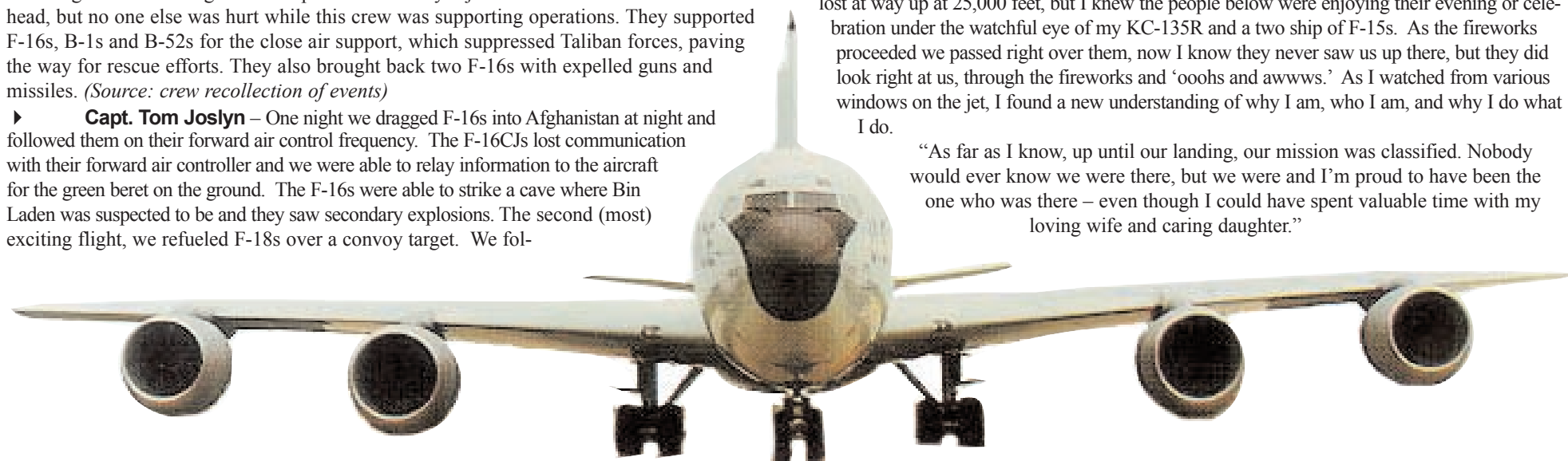
## July 4, 2002

► **Staff Sgt. Kevin Ortman** – “I was assigned to fly an Operation Noble Eagle mission on July 4 this year where we were assigned to fly combat air patrols over New York City. It was a night flight like no other I had done. Upon arriving on station, we set up orbit over the city center and with every pass, we could see the vacancy left by the World Trade Center towers.

“Throughout the sortie, I found myself wondering what the towers actually looked like, for I had never seen them. I laid in the boom pod for several passes and watched as Manhattan passed underneath us, followed by the Statue of Liberty.

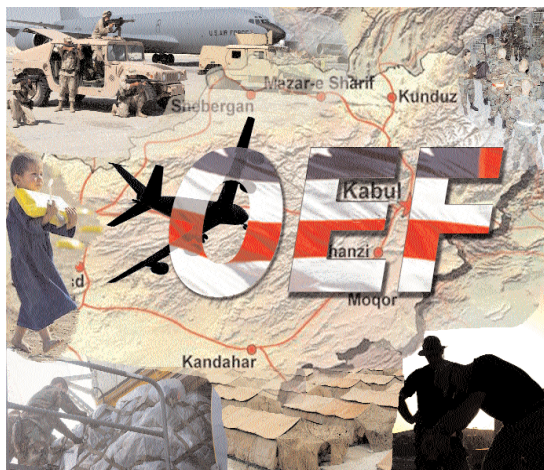
“As the sun faded, I watched the city light up in celebration. Now the ambiance of fireworks is lost at way up at 25,000 feet, but I knew the people below were enjoying their evening or celebration under the watchful eye of my KC-135R and a two ship of F-15s. As the fireworks proceeded we passed right over them, now I know they never saw us up there, but they did look right at us, through the fireworks and ‘ooohs and awwws.’ As I watched from various windows on the jet, I found a new understanding of why I am, who I am, and why I do what I do.

“As far as I know, up until our landing, our mission was classified. Nobody would ever know we were there, but we were and I’m proud to have been the one who was there – even though I could have spent valuable time with my loving wife and caring daughter.”



## THE LEADER

With the one year anniversary of Operation Enduring Freedom Monday, it reminds us of the ongoing War on Terrorism and the sacrifices Warriors of the North have made since it began.



Graphic by Senior Airman Monte Volk

**85%**

Air Refueling Effectiveness  
Rate from Sept. 23 through 29.

**34**

DWI-free days.  
The base gets a down day for  
100 DWI-free days.

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Capt. Patricia Lang \_\_\_\_\_ Chief, public affairs

Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol \_\_\_\_\_ Chief, internal information

Senior Airman Monte Volk \_\_\_\_\_ Managing editor

Staff Sgt. Randy Roughton \_\_\_\_\_ Staff writer

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#### ◆Deadlines

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#### ◆Contact information

E-mail: leader@grandforks.af.mil, Phone: 701.747.5023

#### ◆Public Affairs

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#### ◆Advertisements

Call the Grand Forks Herald at 701.780.1275 before noon Tuesday.

### Corrections

► In the Sept. 27 edition of The Leader, the Page 2 article, “Passing 10 million,” said a Navy EP-3E was refueled when it was actually a NATO E-3D Century.

► Also in the Sept. 27 issue on Page 3, it said the quarterly award winners were for the third quarter when they were actually for the second quarter. Third quarter award winners will be announced later this month.



# Air Force Ball



Photos by 2nd Lt. Robert Lazaro

Retired Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman, former Air Force chief of staff, is presented with a Warrior of the North statue by Col. Keye Sabol, 319th Air Refueling Wing commander, during the Air Force Ball Saturday in Ralph Englestad Arena in Grand Forks. Fogleman was the guest speaker for the event.



(Above) Warriors of the North attending the ball stop for a photo. (Right) An honor guard member participates in the POW/MIA ceremony during the ball.



# Community Safety Night set for Thursday

By Master Sgt. Richard Lien  
Assistant fire chief

The base fire prevention office, along with other base agencies, will hold Community Safety Night Thursday at 6 p.m. at the youth center. The event is free and open to the base community.

People can get answers to questions such as how to use a fire extinguisher properly, how to safely get out of your house in case of fire, lead a healthy lifestyle, or even prevent crime in their neighborhood.

Several agencies have taken a proactive attitude toward serving the base populace. Sparky the Fire Dog will greet children of all ages.

The health and wellness center, or HAWC, will provide information on a wide range of health and wellness activities. Red Cross volunteers will be providing information on skills enhancement training and disaster preparedness for families.

The fire prevention office offers children the opportunity to go through the EDITH (Exit Drills in the Home) house and learn valuable life-saving skills, as well as fire extinguisher training.

The 319th Air Refueling Wing safety office will have their "fatal vision" goggles on-hand and share their expertise on a wide-range of personal safety issues. Members of the base chapel will let you know about a wide variety of religious programs open to everyone on base.

Life skills and other related topics will be open for discussion with the staff from 319th Medical Group's behavioral health services.

Questions about radon and carbon monoxide gas will be answered by the experts from 319th MDG's bio-environmental engineering office and family advocacy will also have a representative on hand to answer questions about family issues and more.

McGruff the Crime Dog will represent the base crime prevention office and teach children about Operation Identification.

Family support center professionals are an integral part of Community Safety Night as well and invite people to stop by their display and pick up information to help families reach their family safety goal.

The Drug Demand Reduction Office will be letting all

## Fire Prevention Week 2002

The base fire prevention office is once again participating in National Fire Prevention Week – Sunday through Oct. 12. This year's activities will offer something for everyone.

► **Monday** – Sparky the Fire Dog will make appearances throughout the base, followed by a fire department open house from 4 to 7 p.m. at the base fire station. Pictures with Sparky the Fire Dog are encouraged!

► **Tuesday** – members of the base fire department and Sparky will visit pre-school through second grade classes at Eielson Elementary School.

► **Wednesday** – People will be able to visit with fire inspectors at the base exchange from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m..

► **Thursday morning and afternoon** – Your fire prevention team will visit the various day-care facilities and homes.

► **Thursday evening** – The base community is invited to attend the annual Community Safety Night festivities 6 to 8 p.m. at the youth center. In response to a growing community awareness in fire, crime, family safety, and health issues, a special evening has been set aside.

► Customers shopping at the commissary from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on **Oct. 11** will be able to visit with fire inspectors and discuss ways of preventing home cooking fires.

► **Saturday** wraps up Fire Prevention Week with a booth display at Columbia Mall in Grand Forks from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more details on Fire Prevention Week activities, call Master Sgt. Rich Lien or Jay Evett at 747-4174.

Clip this coupon and bring it to the Fire Prevention booth at Community Safety Night. Each family will receive one **FREE** home emergency flashlight!



Community Safety Night is 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the youth center.

who attend know about their newest program called Drug Education For Youth, or DEFY. This program helps to inform youth about the dangers of drugs and how to stay away from getting drugs.

For more details about this year's Community Safety Night, call the fire prevention office at 747-4174.

## News

# U.S. has 'solid evidence' al-Qaeda operating in Iraq

By Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The United States has "solid evidence" senior al-Qaeda operatives have been in Baghdad, Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said today. He could not confirm whether such individuals are still in Iraq.

The secretary said intelligence shared among Coalition members about the al-Qaeda relationship with Iraq is "evolving" and of "varying degrees of reliability." Some intelligence was culled from interviews with high-ranking al-Qaeda detainees in U.S. custody, Rumsfeld said during an afternoon Pentagon media briefing.

Intelligence agencies have confirmed contacts between Iraq and al-Qaeda's leaders. Rumsfeld said the two entities have discussed "safe- haven opportunities in Iraq (and) reciprocal nonaggression" agreements, among other issues.

"The reports of these contacts have been increasing since 1998," Rumsfeld said, and have expanded to include "credible evidence" that al-Qaeda leaders sought contacts in Iraq for assistance in acquiring weapons of mass destruction capabilities.

One report, in particular, indicates that Iraq provided training in chemical and biological weapons to al Qaeda.

Rumsfeld again reminded that the U.S. goal in dealing with Iraq isn't finding absolute proof, but preventing attacks on America and her allies.

"It is a puzzle," he said about drawing conclusions from scraps of intelligence from various sources. "It is the task of taking these disparate pieces and putting them together so that people can make their own judgment."

At the same briefing, Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters about recent U.S. military activity in Southern Iraq. Coalition aircraft attacked two Iraqi air defense facilities with precision-guided munitions Sept. 25 after they had been fired upon, he said.

In Afghanistan, U.S. Special Forces uncovered a large weapons cache suspected of belonging to an arms dealer near Orgun, in southeast Afghanistan near the Pakistani border.

The U.S. forces "recovered large amounts of mortar rounds, artillery rounds, rockets, anti-personnel mines, heavy machine gun ammunition, and the like," Pace said.



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher

### Fill 'er up

A KC-135 refuels a Fargo Air National Guard F-16. Maj. Gen. John Becker, 15th Air Force commander, back seat, watches one of his units first-hand, during his visit Sept. 26.



Briefs

Name tag returns

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- The Air Force’s service dress uniform welcomed back an old friend Wednesday – the nametag.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and other senior leaders selected a new nametag for the uniform at the 2002 Corona Top conference in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The new service dress nametag has a brushed satin finish and blue letters. It is slightly larger and heavier than the blue plastic nametag worn on the blue shirt and medical white uniform. It will only feature the wearer's last name and will only be worn on the service dress, on the right side parallel to the ribbons and medals.

Air Force officials decided last year that a nametag was needed on the service dress uniform. Several proposals were reviewed and feedback was gathered from across the Air Force during several wear-tests. The new nametags will be available in Army and Air Force Exchange Service military

clothing sales stores at a future date when stocks become available.

Harvest Fest

The Protestant and Catholic chapel communities will have their annual Harvest Fest celebration Oct. 13 at Eielson School from 3 to 6 p.m. to celebrate the blessings of the harvest. Families can enjoy the evening on a hay ride through housing, playing carnival games, enjoying food and warm drinks. Admission for this fun-filled evening is a non-perishable food item to be donated to our base food cupboard. Donations of liters of soda and wrapped candy is also being accepted.

Breast cancer 5K

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Base members can join local supporters 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 19 for a non-competitive five-kilometer walk/run. Call the health

and wellness center at 747-5546 for more details.

NCO enhancement seminar

The Grand Forks Air Force Base Top Three will sponsor an noncommissioned officer enhancement seminar Oct. 16 and 17 at the Airman Leadership School. The seminar will focus on members who haven’t attended a formal PME course recently. The seminar will cover items like performance feedback, EPRs and recognition programs, just to name a few.

Hispanic Heritage Month

A Hispanic Heritage Month activity kicks off at the community activity center Saturday, beginning at noon, featuring Licanantay (Chilean musicians) and lunch for the whole family. Choice of beef or chicken tacos catered by Paradisos. Dress is civilian casual. Cost is \$4 for the meal.



Courtesy photo

ONW warriors

Members of the 319th Air Refueling Wing began supporting operations for Operation Northern Watch in Turkey in September after the Air National Guard completed a year of service there. This is a squadron photo of the 900th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron members mainly comprised of people from Grand Forks Air Force Base.

## News

# Seventh annual scholarship ball

By Donya Davis-Seay and Connie Caldwell  
African-American Cultural Association

The African-American Cultural Association's seventh annual Black and White Scholarship Ball is Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. in The Club.

The ball originated from the Greek fraternities and sororities. Signature colors of the different fraternities were used for their fund-raising events.

The African-American Cultural Association challenged themselves six years ago to increase fundraising efforts and adopted the idea of hosting a benefit ball for the purpose of awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving senior high school student. Black and white were colors chosen to support this affair. Over the past six years, the AACA has been able to award



seven scholarships totaling more than \$6,500 through this annual event and local donations. This year they will pay a tribute to the past six-year's accomplishments in reaching the ultimate goal.

This black tie affair requires formal/semi-formal attire and is open to Grand Forks and surrounding communities. A \$20 donation for club members and \$23 for non-club members will be taken before Oct. 15. There is a menu choice of game hen or London broil with rustic mashed potatoes, green beans, salad and assorted desserts. No additional seating will be available the day of the ball.

People can sign up with their unit orderly rooms or call Donya Davis-Seay at 594-2377, Maxine Roy-Johnson at 747-6011 or 594-9768, Rose Biggs at 747-5420 or 594-6239, or MC Diop at 777-4362.

## Hispanic contributions to U.S. military

By Airman 1st Class Angella Veve  
Hispanic Heritage Month Project  
Officer

As President Reagan once stated, Latinos have received "awards for heroism and bravery far in excess to their proportion of the population."

Hispanics have received the highest honors to date in the U.S. Navy and Galveston, Texas is named after Bernardo de Galvez, who was instrumental during the American Revolution.

These and other contributions to the military effort have been significant by Hispanics through the years. Following is a brief breakdown of some of those accomplishments.

### The Civil War

When the Civil War broke out, the Mexican-American community was divided in loyalty.

Approximately 1,000 joined the Union Army and another 2,550, the Confederate Force.

By the end of the war, as many as 9,900 Mexican-Americans fought.

Most served in the regular army or volunteer units which were integrated. Some, however, served in predominately Mexican-American units with their own officers.

Of the 40,000 volumes written about the Civil War, only one, *Vaqueros in Blue and Gray*, has been written about their contribution.

In 1863, the U.S. government established four military companies of Mexican-American Californians (the First Battalion of Native Cavalry) to utilize their "extraordinary

horsemanship." At least 469 Mexican-Americans served under Maj. Salvador Vallejo, helping to defeat a Confederate invasion of New Mexico.

In 1814-15, Col. Miguel E. Pino established the Second Regiment of New Mexico Volunteers. At least six independent militia companies commanded by Mexican-Americans were raised in New Mexico. Approximately 4,000 Mexican-Americans volunteered in these companies.

In Texas, the Union established 12 Mexican-American companies (the First Regiment of Texas Cavalry). By and large, the officers were non-Hispanic, although there were some Mexican Texans serving as captains and lieutenants.

### World War I

At the beginning of World War I, Hispanics and others who lacked sufficient English skills were sent to training centers to improve their language proficiency and produce soldiers fully capable of being integrated into the Army.

Eventually, training was established at Camp Gordon, Ga. However, by the time the camp was operational the war was almost over.

Nicholas Lucero, a Hispanic, received the French Croix de Guerre during World War I for destroying two German machine gun nests and maintaining constant fire for three hours.

Marcelino Serna, received the Distinguished Service Cross for the single-handed capture of 24 enemy soldiers. His other decorations included: the French Croix de Guerre, the Victory Medal with three bars, and two Purple Hearts.

It was not until 1989 that the first Hispanic recipient of the Medal of Honor was recognized in a ceremony during Hispanic Heritage week.

David Barkley was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for bravery in action on the Meuse River, France, in November 1918.

Barkley's Hispanic background did not come to light until 71 years after he gave his life for his country.

Other Hispanics served in World War I, but there are insufficient records to determine how many.

### World War II

Estimates for World War II range anywhere from 250,000 to 500,000 Hispanics who served in the armed forces.

Hispanic soldiers participated in all the major battles of World War II. Nevertheless, it is known that between 1940 and 1946, approximately 53,000 Puerto Ricans served.

With the exception of the Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment, Hispanics did not serve in segregated units.

National Guard units, with large proportions of Mexican-Americans, served from Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, and California.

There were about 200 Puerto Rican women in the Women's Army Corps. The New Mexico National Guard, with its large representation of Hispanics, became the largest single American unit in the Philippines.

Their knowledge of Spanish was a definite asset as Spanish was a principal language in the Philippines.

# Doing what it takes: ‘the Deid’

“Headin’ out or coming back?” This is a fairly common question asked among passing crewmembers at the “Manhattan Heights” dining tent at Al Udeid.

The tan flight suits hide the dust that permeates everything despite the camp’s best efforts at cleanliness.

They sit down with their cafeteria-style trays loaded with anything from the hot entrée of the day to pastrami sandwiches to the available fresh fruit — pretty good grub for camping out.

A bottle of water accompanies most meals, as crews stay hydrated for the 100-plus degree temperatures that greet them outside the air-conditioned tent. Looks like any other day at “the Deid.”

Today, like any other day, the Warriors of the North are going to fly multiple combat sorties in the continuing War on Terrorism.

While the luster of the current operation gives way to talk of future contingencies, Grand Forks aircrew members receive their intelligence brief on the current threat, plan for and brief the current mission, and fly over hostile territory to make our continued success in Operation Enduring Freedom a reality.

Maybe they’ll refuel a fighter heading towards a suspected Taliban hideout or performing close air support for special operations forces on the ground. Perhaps today the offload will go to surveillance assets, or the airborne warning and control system aircraft who control



**Lt. Col. Dave Allvin**  
379th Expeditionary  
Operations Group  
commander  
Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

the air traffic. Whatever the mission, the deployed Warriors do their job with unsurpassed pride, professionalism, and sense of purpose.

That’s not always easy when every day looks like any other day.

Today, like any other day, the Warriors of the North who maintain jets often twice their age will endure ramp temperatures of 130-plus degrees Fahrenheit. They will repair, service and launch aircraft on time, every time, if it’s humanly possible.

Maybe today the jet will launch smooth as silk. Maybe the crew chiefs and specialists will have to work magic to make sure the peculiarities of operating in extreme heat don’t get in the way of mission accomplishment.

They will do whatever it takes, for however long it takes, until the aircraft lumbers out of the chocks and out to the runway.

The marshaller will snap a sharp salute to the pilots, knowing that the maintenance team has put that aircrew in the best machine possible for their trip downrange and back.

It’s the same story for every deployed member of Team Grand Forks. The particulars will vary from duty to duty, but the theme cuts through all Air Force specialties.

The 319th Air Refueling Wing continues to lead the way in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Our Warriors are exceptionally skilled, motivated, and represent the best the base has to offer.

It’s that way today, and it will be tomorrow ... or any other day.



*Photo by Senior Airman Kelly Ramey*

### Award-winning story

Grand Forks’ WDAZ-TV Channel 8 reporter Janel Klein and cameraman Chris Regimbal, shown above interviewing a base member at Base X in March, recently won a “Teddy Award” for their news report entitled “Inside Base X.” The award, given by the North Dakota Broadcasters Association, recognizes the best news report in North Dakota for the year 2002.



# *Tanker pilot explains significance of ‘10 million’*

**By Capt. Tom Joslyn**  
912th Air Refueling Squadron

On Sept. 12, in the early dawn over northern Afghanistan, my crew of 1st Lt. Mike Bernardi, Airman 1st Class Doug Smith and myself (all 912th Air Refueling Squadron) transferred a sizeable offload to a NATO E-3D Century and pushed our expeditionary squadron (the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar) over the 10 million pound mark.

Ten million pounds of fuel transferred over hostile territory sounds pretty impressive, but it’s just a number and I think it’s important to tell you what 10 million represents to me.

I could tell you how long that would power your car (or all the world’s cars for that matter), but that’s really not what we’ve accomplished.

The 10 million pound mark represents a great deal of sacrifice by a large number of people at Grand Forks Air Force Base, primarily in the maintenance and operations groups.

When the war broke out a year ago, I had already spent four of the 12 months previous to Sept. 11 at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, and didn’t care to revisit that part of the world ever.

Since Sept. 11, I’ve spent eight of the last 12 months at Base X, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar and Prince Sultan, all very dry, remote, dusty, hot and undesirable locales.

My experience is hardly unique. I’m sure there are many others who’ve logged over a year in that region over the last two years. But 12 months is just another number and like 10 million, conveys no meaning.

To me, 12 months means spending the last two Christmases and anniversaries apart from my family.

It means missing countless special moments in my children’s development that can’t quite be conveyed by video or pictures.

First crawls, first steps, first smiles, first words, first day of preschool and gymnastics, etcetera. And yet, for me these sacrifices are overshadowed by the sacrifices my wife has made. Living like a single mom for about three-fourths of the time, enduring the long winters alone, and adapting to the ever-changing schedule.

So has it been worth it? I’ve painted a pretty gloomy (yet accurate) picture of the personal sacrifice that 10 million pounds represents.

As a former assistant operations officer at Base X, I can attest to the fact that our

people bore the brunt of the load during the height of the conflict. To date, our tanker crews and maintainers have launched and flown more than half of the KC-135 sorties in the war (with fewer tankers and lower manning rates than our sister wings).

We can all be proud of that, but what have we accomplished? Well, we’ve demonstrated to the world the effectiveness of our military might and global reach.

Afghanistan is quite literally the most remote place for us to fight a war. For the first eight months of the war, not a single combat aircraft (not even carrier-based) could have reached Afghanistan without air refueling!

More importantly, air refueling enabled our forces to loiter overhead ground forces providing round the clock close air support and affording al-Qaeda no respite, no chance to resupply, and no hope of organized counterattack.

Our bombing raids destroyed at least hundreds of arms caches clearing the way for helicopters to operate safely.

Helicopters now fly about two-thirds of the missions over Afghanistan and are greatly enhancing our ability to support forces outside of the vicinity around Kabul.

If the fledgling government has any chance of succeeding it will be a direct result of the military protection we continue to provide and the ability of their leaders to cement the loyalties of their own soldiers now being trained.

As ground forces spread outward from Kabul (hopefully soon) they will hopefully spread the promise of a new way of life in Afghanistan – one based on education and economic development instead of warfare.

We’ve proven once again how great we are at destroying the infrastructure of a country; now the United States has a golden opportunity to show the world how great we are at building nations and supporting our friends.

The results of such a rebuilding campaign (not undertaken since post-World War II) could have unforeseen benefits far beyond simply eliminating a poverty-stricken terrorist breeding ground. It could serve as a beacon of hope to other developing nations where violence is a staple of power.

So what is the significance of the 10 millionth pound? It is a small milestone along the very difficulty road to establishing the rule of law in a country that has only known the rule of violence and brutality.

Defeating the Taliban was the easy part, the real challenges are yet to come and I pray our nation is up to the task.



OEF Warriors in action



Photo by 2nd Lt. Robert Lazaro

In late September 2001, Warriors of the North preparing to deploy to “Base X” are issued their desert deployment gear. The wing started deploying people and equipment Sept. 21, 2001, prior to the kickoff of Operation Enduring Freedom Oct. 7.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

A C-17 Globemaster III is loaded with deployment equipment on the flightline in late September 2001 as part of a buildup for Operation Enduring Freedom.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Robert Lazaro

Master Sgts. Steven Iverson, Kevin Flickinger, and David Young pack goodie bags for 319th Air Refueling Wing deployers in September 2001.

One year later:

Wing deployment vets chime in on what they’ve seen, experienced in OEF

By Staff Sgt. Randy Roughton Public affairs

A few weeks into deploying for Operation Enduring Freedom, Lt. Col. Jim Harper had a problem as the initial Base X commander. He was looking for airmen in need of attitude adjustments for menial tasks, and he couldn’t find them.

Almost exactly a year later, Harper looks back on the problem he didn’t mind having as an example of the commitment the base demonstrated in its response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

“We had some ‘tasks’ that needed to be done, so I asked my first sergeant, Senior Master Sgt. Victor Rountree, if he had anyone on his bad-boy list who needed a little extra boot,” the 911th Air Refueling Squadron commander said.

“Neither he nor I could identify anybody because everybody was doing such an outstanding job.

“Out of 250 people, you’d think there’d be one or two guys with an attitude problem, but we couldn’t identify anyone who wasn’t giving 100 percent.”

In some cases, airmen were giving their best in unprecedented fashion. Staff Sgt. Jake Gardner of the 906th Air Refueling Squadron, had five Air Medals waiting on him when he returned to Grand Forks. Lt. Col. Glenn Rousseau, 906th ARS commander, said Gardner wasn’t the only squadron member to return home with multiple medals.

“I had Air Medals coming in right and left, because our crews were flying that hard,” Rousseau said. “It became almost routine to hand out air medals during

commander’s call, but this is a unique time. It’s really impressive to see what folks are doing and they’re doing it so well, and they’re such a young crew force relative to the other tanker wings makes their achievements even greater.”

The 319th Air Refueling Wing’s hours during fiscal 2002 were astounding, officials say. Wing jets flew more than 27,000 hours (more than double the average), 4,439 sorties, and offloaded more than 275 million gallons of fuel.

Harper, who deployed with the first

Flying facts

The 319th Air Refueling Wing’s hours during fiscal 2002 were astounding, officials say. Wing jets flew more than 27,000 hours (more than double the average), 4,439 sorties, and offloaded more than 275 million gallons of fuel.



The initial Grand Forks members who arrived at Base X found themselves in a bare-base environment, facing more than their share of unknowns.

“It was a completely strange environment, and we had nothing formally set up in the way of billeting and food,” Harper said. “But once they got their footing, you



Photo by Senior Airman Kelly Ramey

Deployed members march their way to a planning meeting at Base X in February.

could see the wheels start turning, from the leadership down to the youngest airman.

“We had so many unknowns. We knew we were going to have an operations maintenance package and that we would be flying refueling missions, but we did not know how long, what the area of responsibility would be and how the missions were going to evolve. I would have never guessed two weeks later, we’d have more than 1,100 people at the base and Grand Forks Air Force Base would be the lead unit.”

Lessons learned in the past year, in Harper’s mind, are the importance of putting people and aircraft in place even before the military’s leaders decided how they would use them. He also saw the importance of preparation.

For continued success in wherever the War on Terror goes, Rousseau believes the Air Force must keep taking care of its families a priority.

“I think retention and morale are going to be a big part of our ability to sustain what we’ve accomplished,” he said. “Having Mom or Dad gone for most of the year is tough on our families, and I know they’re feeling the strain.

“We need to keep communicating to them their sacrifices are worthwhile in preserving the freedom of our nation.”

Monday’s anniversary of Operation Enduring Freedom’s start showcases unprecedented efforts by Warriors of the North

‘There was no way I could sit at home’

By Staff Sgt. Randy Roughton Public affairs

Like many wing members who left their families at home to answer their nation’s call, Senior Master Sgt. Victor Rountree bid an emotional goodbye before leaving for Operation Enduring Freedom in September 2001.

While he naturally hoped for the best, Rountree was prepared for the ultimate sacrifice.

“There was no way I could sit at home and not go if the opportunity came,” said the 319th Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant who served as the 319th Air Expeditionary Group first sergeant for the first four months of the war.

“We were trained for this moment, so I told my family I may not make it back home when it’s over, but if it’s God’s will, we will take care of business and come back.”

Master Sgt. Tracey Smith, 319th Logistic Readiness Squadron backshop superintendent who took over as chief of supply at Base X, arrived on

the second KC-135. Smith has heard the term “bare base” for much of his career, but he saw what it looked like when his plane landed.

“When we got there, there was nothing,” Smith said, “I mean nothing.

The (Tanker Airlift Control Element) had just landed and still had not downloaded their equipment yet. There was no Tent City and we had about 200 people coming in that night.”

“We deployed with four supply people and 12 pallets of aircraft parts and were set up and operating within 48

hours of landing. The hardest part about the initial phase of the job was getting information as to who, what, where and when we could expect to be supported from the states.

“Normally, we have a concept of operations, but we left so quickly, they have to be working as soon as be got there.”

For many, the most difficult aspect of their participation in OEF was not only separation from family, but not knowing

when it would end. Rountree remembers people looking forward to visits by U.S. leaders, thinking they would bring news, only to be disappointed.

They weren’t asking for an immediate departure – only a plan of when they would be going home.

“Being away without knowing when you were coming back was the biggest challenge,” Smith said. “Not only did I have to keep my feeling on the subject to myself, but had to keep the spirits up of the other three who were deployed with me. When you leave with orders that say 90 days that turn into 120 and then 150, things get a little difficult when it comes to morale.

“I am proud of the fact that along with 319th Aircraft Generation Squadron, maintenance and operations, our team as the 319th Air Expeditionary Wing never missed a mission due to maintenance and supply.”

Smith shares that pride with many others who gave a major part of their lives to their country

when it needed them most. Rountree remembers being impressed with the professionalism he saw in wing members who teamed with those from 55 other Air Force bases, as well as Army and Marine units.

But he also wants people who never left the base, but supported OEF in their daily jobs, to know they were also an important part of the success.

“For those people who did not have the chance to deploy,” Rountree said, “I want you to know we’re still one team. We were the ones selected to go forward, but we still carried all of you with us because you supported us. Your place in history is just as important as ours.”



File photo

Senior Master Sgt. Victor Rountree, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron, held two jobs while he was deployed for OEF - first sergeant and Gospel pastor.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Coming home from OEF operations was bittersweet for many Warriors like Staff Sgt. Sherry Sutton, 905th Air Refueling Squadron, shown hugging her husband Matt after returning from Base X in January.

OEF milestones

In November 2001, a 319th Air Refueling Wing aircrew helped a Navy F-14 return to its carrier during Operation Enduring Freedom operations over Afghanistan. The F-14 had a fuel leak so the KC-135R Stratotanker crew stood by and refueled the plane all the way to its return destination - averting a possi-

ble crash and saving the plane.

On Jan. 17, an aircrew that included 905th, 906th, 911th, and 912th Air Refueling Squadron members assigned to the 319th Air Expeditionary Group, completed the 1,000th combat tanker sortie at Base X.

On March 19, the aircrew of Maj. Peter Stinson, Capts. Mikko Lavalley and Tom Joslyn, 1st Lt. Matt Wetter, Master Sgt. Bryan

Hettinghouse, Staff Sgt. Chris Maleski and Senior Airman Jacob Gardner completed the 319th AEG’s 1,500th combat sortie.

In April, the crew of Capts. Richard Day and Joseph Dunn and Senior Airman Jacob Gardner flew a mission over Afghanistan that recorded the 100 millionth pound of fuel offloaded during operations at Base X.

OEF Warriors in action



Photo by Senior Airman Kelly Ramey

This photo of tent city at Base X shows the living conditions deployed members have faced for Operation Enduring Freedom.



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher

Deployed members work on setting up equipment at Base X. The effort was part of a bare-base buildup for a base that eventually had more than 1,000 people operating there.



Photo by Senior Airman Darcie Bergstrand

A 319th Air Expeditionary Group maintenance member signals in a returning KC-135 to its parking spot on the ramp at Base X in December 2001.



Photo by Senior Airman Darcie Bergstrand

A 319th Air Expeditionary Group aircrew member waves prior to taking off for another mission. 319th Air Refueling Wing members are now on the job at a different location - Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, and they stand ready to continue to make OEF operations a success.



## Community

### Base chapel

#### CATHOLIC:

**Mass:** 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Sunday. Daily Mass: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, all at Sunflower Chapel  
**CCD:** 10:45 a.m., Sunday, Twining Elementary School  
**Reconciliation:** 4 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel  
**Singles Bible study:** Wednesday, noon, Sunflower Chapel

#### PROTESTANT:

**General Protestant worship:** 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.  
**Liturgical worship:** 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel.  
**Inspirational worship:** 6 p.m., Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel  
**Singles:** 7:15 p.m. Friday, meet at Prairie Rose Chapel annex  
**Youth:** 4 p.m., Sunday, youth center, Grades 7 to 12  
**Religious Education:** 9 a.m., Sunday, Eielson Elementary School.  
**Men of the Chapel:** noon, Monday, Prairie Rose conference room

#### JEWISH:

For details call Sheila Farquharson at 594-3960 or Synagogue B'nai Israel at 775-5124.

#### RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:

For details call Dr. Levitov 780-6540

#### MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:

For details call 747-5673.

### Base theater

**Today, 7 p.m.**

#### ***Signs (PG-13)***

A widowed Pennsylvania farmer, Graham Hess (Mel Gibson), discovers strange 500-foot crop circles in his corn fields. Were they created by pranksters or ... aliens? Along with his brother, Merrill (Joaquin Phoenix), and his two children, daughter Bo (Abigail Breslin) and son Morgan (Rory Culkin), Graham searches for the answer, and it's not long before others are searching, too.

**Saturday, 3 p.m.**

#### ***Serving Sara (PG-13)***

Al Pacino plays a movie director whose lead actress (Winona Ryder) suddenly drops out of his latest film. Without letting the public know, he uses a revolutionary program to replace the actress with a fully computer-generated starlet, named Simone — partially played by newcomer Rachel Roberts.

**Sunday, 7 p.m.**

#### ***XXX (2002) (R)***

Vin Diesel stars as Xander "XXX" Cage, a notorious underground thrill-seeker who, until now, has been deemed untouchable by the law. But when NSA Agent Gibbons (Samuel L. Jackson) wants to infiltrate a Russian crime ring, he knows there's only one man for the job. He makes a deal with XXX, offering him freedom from prosecution if he'll go undercover.

**Oct. 11, 7 p.m.**

#### ***Men in Black II (50 cent tickets - PG-13)***

**Oct. 12, 7 p.m.**

#### ***Fear Dot Com (R)***

**Tickets: \$1.50 children, \$3 adults**  
**For details, call 747-3021/6123.**



### Crafty patriots

Jeanne Becker, spouse of 15th Air Force Commander, Maj. Gen. John D. Becker, shows the Officers Spouses Club how to make patriotic crafts in the Prairie Rose chapel annex during her visit to the base Sept. 27.



*Photos by Staff Sgt. Randy Roughton*

### Today

#### **OKTOBERFEST**

Come to the Club tonight for Oktoberfest, beginning at 5:30 p.m. There will be German food, beer and wine served with an oompa band for an authentic German atmosphere at 6:30 p.m. There will be no frontier grill tonight because of this event.

#### **TRICK OR TREAT BAG WORKSHOP**

Sign up today for the skills development center's simple applique class 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday. The cost is \$10, including supplies. For details, call 747-3482.

### Sunday

#### **SUPER SUNDAY BRUNCH**

Super Sunday Brunch in The Club will be 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with all the usual breakfast items, along with two meats, potatoes, gravy and vegetables.

### Upcoming

#### **WIDOW'S BINGO**

Come to the club Monday for bingo while the spouse is watching the game. Cards go on sale at 6 p.m., and games start at 7 p.m. -- about \$700 given away nightly.

#### **PLANET PIZZA TRIP**

Tuesday is the last day to register at the youth center for the Planet Pizza trip Oct. 12. The trip for ages 6 to 12 will be from 12:30 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 8:30 p.m. for 13 to 18. Cost is \$7, including pizza, drinks and transportation. At least 15 participants are needed.

#### **HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL MEETING**

A meeting for those who signed up for a booth at the annual Halloween carnival will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday at Liberty Square.

#### **QUILT CLASS**

Sign up Wednesday at the skills development center for a quilt class that will explore the legend of the "flannel tree forest." Class will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 12. Cost is \$15 plus supplies.

#### **PAJAMA PARTY**

The youth center will have a pajama party in conjunction with the "Community Safety Night," hosted by the base fire prevention office, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday. Come dressed in your favorite pajamas for some favorite bedtime stories, hot chocolate and cookies.

#### **HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL**

Don't forget to buy tickets for the youth

center's annual Halloween carnival and haunted house now through Oct. 19.

#### **PARENT ADVISORY MEETING**

There will be a parent advisory meeting 4:15 p.m. Oct. 16 at the child development center. The speaker will be Cheryl Moore and will give information on how to prepare your child for pre-school and kindergarten.

Parents with children in the child development center, family child care and youth center programs are invited. For details call 747-3042.

#### **HALLOWEEN COSTUME DANCE**

There will be a teen Halloween costume dance at Liberty Square for ages 13-18 from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 18.

The pre-teen costume dance will be 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 19 for ages 6 to 12 at the youth center.

Cost is \$5, and there will be a prize for most original costume at both dances.

#### **SHOP WINNIPEG**

Join outdoor recreation Oct. 19 for a shopping trip to Winnipeg.

Sign up by Oct. 17. Cost is \$15.50 per adult and \$12 for children under 12 accompanied by an adult. For details call 747-3688.



## Sports

### Game and Fish radio program to air statewide

A weekly outdoors radio show, hosted by North Dakota Game and Fish Department outreach biologist Doug Leier, will air statewide beginning Saturday.

"Outdoors in Dakota" will debut on Clear Channel radio network stations in Dickinson, Minot and Grand Forks, while maintaining its weekly presence on KFGO

in Fargo, according to KFGO Fargo program director Jack Sunday. The broadcast airs on Saturdays at 11 a.m..

Leier usually lines up three to four guests per week, Sunday said.

Stations slated to carry the program are: Fargo, KFGO-AM 790; and Grand Forks, KKXL-AM 1440. *Source: NDGFD*

### Shorts

#### LIBERTY SQUARE

There is open skating at Liberty Square tonight for youth ages 6 to 18 from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost is only \$3 for admission and \$2 for skate rental.

The teen center at Liberty Square will be open tonight for ages 13 to 18 from 6 to 11 p.m.

#### ATHLETIC CONTESTS

The youth center will have athletic contests Saturday for youth ages 9 to 12 at 4 p.m., followed by ages 13 to 18 at 7 p.m. Participation is free.

#### YOUTH GALAXY BOWLING

Dakota Lanes offers youth galaxy bowling each Saturday for ages 6 to 18 from 6 to 8 and for 13 to 15 from 8 to 10. Cost is \$2.50 an hour and 75 cents for shoe rental. At least 10 participants are needed to hold. Sign up at the youth center.

#### FOOTBALL FRENZY

Join the Club for "Football Frenzy" at noon Sunday. With NFL Sunday Ticket, four games will be televised at the same time.

#### MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Come to The Club for more "Football Frenzy" for "Monday Night Football Starter" in the sports bar.

#### TOURNAMENT TUESDAYS

Each Tuesday, the youth center holds tournaments for ages 9 to 12 at 5:30 p.m.

and ages 13 to 18 at 7. This week's activity is ping-pong.

#### DAKOTA LANES BOWLING

The bowling center now offers these following activities.

► **75 cents bowling:** Happens Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and costs 75 cents a game.

► **Saturday Galaxy Bowling:** Galaxy Bowl and register to win the next Saturday Galaxy Bowling free for you and one other person. This must be used the following Saturday night and cannot be carried over to another Saturday.

► **Unlimited bowling:** This happens Sunday from 6 to 9 p.m. and is \$5 per person. This will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

#### BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Basketball registration continues through Oct. 15 for ages 5 and older. Practices begin Oct. 29, with games starting the week of Nov. 12. Cost is \$30. Register at the youth center.

#### DUCK, GOOSE HUNTING TRIPS

Join outdoor recreation on Oct. 19 and 26 and Nov. 2 for duck and goose hunting trips in the local area. Outdoor recreation's duck hunts are open to four people while our goose hunts accommodate six to eight. The dates listed are tentative and specifics on whether duck or goose will be hunted will be announced at a later date. For details, call 747-3688.

## Tour de Forks

### Bike ride, Sharon Lambeth 5 kilometer walk/run

#### Event date

Saturday

#### Registration time

8 to 10 a.m.

#### Times of events

- 8:30 a.m., Opening ceremonies
- 8:30 a.m., 30 mile bike ride begins
- 9 a.m., 10 mile bike ride begins
- 9:30 a.m., 5 mile bike ride begins
- 9:45 a.m., 5 kilometer run begins
- 10 a.m., 5 kilometer walk begins

#### Start/finish

Optimist Park in Grand Forks

#### Tour de Forks course

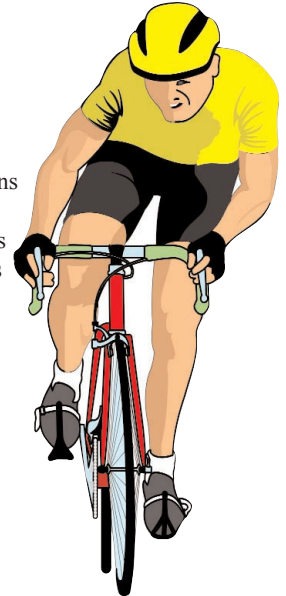
- 5-kilometer walk/run
- 5-mile bike ride
- 10-mile bike ride
- 27-mile bike ride

#### Cost

- Adults \$20
- Students \$10
- Family \$50

All participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt.

All proceeds from this ride go to support the Grand Forks Breast Cancer Coalition.



## North Dakota hunting seasons

### 2002 hunting season remaining opening dates

**Pronghorn gun** - Today

**Pheasant** - Oct. 12

**Fall turkey** - Oct. 12

**Mink, muskrat and weasel trapping** - Oct. 26

**Deer gun** - Nov. 8